

Delaying key votes is a desperate play for time

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**TORIES ON BRINK OF
NEW EURO-IMPLOSION**



Austria, Germany, Greece, Poland,
Spain and United States >>Pages 10&11

**ACTIVISTS PREPARE FOR
INTERNATIONAL DEMOS**



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'WE WON'T WAIT TO SAVE OUR WORLD'

CLIMATE CHANGE

School strike activists speak out

by SARAH BATES

WALKOUTS WERE set to hit schools across Britain this Friday as students strike for climate justice.

Action was planned in at least 38 towns and cities from Fort William to Swansea.

It's part of the worldwide #FridaysForFuture protests that have seen students organise walkouts to demand urgent action on climate change.

It follows a series of reports released this week showing the planet's insect population has plummeted—and that climate change threatens a global systemic collapse.

Organised under the banner of Youth Strike for



Noah and Murray from Scarborough

Climate, this week's strike has four main demands.

It wants the government to declare a climate emergency and include information about climate change as part of national curriculum.

It demands that the government publicises the severity of the climate change crisis, brings the voting age down to 16 and listens to young people.

Murray Robinson, a 15 year old student in Scarborough, said he would strike with members of his school eco club.

He told Socialist Worker he's taking action "because we're the generation that's going to have to look after

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SCHOOL STUDENT strikers in Belgium took to the streets earlier this year



THE THINGS THEY SAY

'Teen knifed to death yards from Prince George school'

The Daily Mail newspaper thinks killings are more problematic if they take place near a royal scrounger

'Reckless rich kids'

The Sun attacks the Stansted 15 anti-deportation campaigners

'Aleppo is already being reconstructed. Taunton still bears the scars of years of municipal neglect, bad planning and flat-footed leadership'

Somerset is worse than Syria says Tory Ian Liddell-Grainger

'Should have gone years ago'

Troublemaker agrees for once with Radio 4 presenter John Humphrys, who's retiring

'It is not a closure programme but a sustainability programme'

Kelly Tolhurst, business minister, on plans to close 41 Post Offices



Missing blood scandal files are latest part of a cover-up

GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS have removed hundreds of files relating to the scandal of contaminated blood used in British hospitals in the 1970s and 1980s. The files are now missing.

A government Internal Audit Agency investigation (IAA) last year found that 950 files relating to blood policy had been "checked out".

The report was released to campaigner Jason Evans under the Freedom of Information Act. Jason's father died in 1993 after he contracted hepatitis and HIV through contaminated blood.

Jason said, "We're talking about at least tens of thousands of documents within these files."

"The undoubted question that arises is why were the files removed, and was this part of a cover-up?"

An inquiry into the scandal began last year.

It has heard that 25,000 people might have been infected after being given contaminated blood products decades ago.

Governments imported blood



products cheaply from the US, despite warnings that they were unsafe.

The IAA report said that Department of Health and Social Care staff had checked out around 450 files that had not been returned.

A further 500 were checked out by the Department for Education.

It said, "At present, there is no system in place to follow up on physical files which have been checked out from the archives and not been returned in a timely manner."

Solicitor Des Collins is senior partner at Collins Solicitors, which represents over 1,000 victims and their families.

He said, "We know that there has been a government cover-up. We now have clear evidence that vast numbers of documents were removed."

"We need to get to the bottom of why this happened, exactly what was in the files and what the people who in effect 'make them disappear' were trying to hide."

The inquiry has heard that some victims said their medical records disappeared or were doctored.

Eleanor Gray QC, representing the Department of Health and Social Care, said the treatment of information relating to the scandal is "at worst a cover-up, at best a lack of candour".

THE AVERAGE water bill is set to rise by 2 percent from 1 April

Some firms are grabbing more than others. Yorkshire Water is putting up bills by 4 percent.

The amount of water lost to leaking pipes in England and Wales rose by 1.5 percent in 2017-18 to 3.17 billion litres a day, according to the Consumer Council for Water.



SOME SEVEN out of ten councils in England are dimming or switching off street lights at night, or plan to, according to figures released after a Freedom of Information request. The AA said this could hit safety, as 11 recent inquests blamed fatalities on lights being off at night.

Sajid Javid turns to attack Travellers

TORY HOME secretary Sajid Javid plans to make life even harder for Travellers.

Currently Travellers face harassment under civil trespassing laws if they set up unauthorised camps.

Javid has launched a review to see if this can be made a criminal offence.

Police could also get more powers to close Traveller sites.

Currently they can move Traveller groups that have six or more vehicles.

New rules could cut this to two.

They could also get powers to remove Travellers from highways and ban them from returning to the same spot for 12 months, instead



Distressing—Sajid Javid

of the current three.

Javid said unauthorised camps cause other people significant distress.

The Tories cause a lot more distress.

Grayling's non-existent ferry company sails off

CHRIS Grayling, the bungling transport minister who has overseen a string of failed projects, had struck a £13.8 million deal with Seaborne Freight.

But the government scrapped the contract last week after the firm's financial backers pulled out.

Seaborne was one of three firms given contracts worth £108 million to put on extra ferries in the event of a no-deal Brexit.

It never had run such a service, or had any ferries.

It had borrowed its terms and conditions from a fast food website.

Grayling faced huge criticism over the move but arrogantly insisted it was "not a risk".

Seaborne's hoped for partner Arklow Shipping decided to "step back from the deal".

So the government didn't change its mind about the contract, but it seems there just wasn't enough money in it for the bosses.

Chris 'Failing' Grayling

Clegg gives up cash bonus

THE government has stopped paying an allowance to Sir Nick Clegg.

Former prime ministers, and the one-time deputy premier, can receive a public duty cost allowance of up to £115,000 a year to cover official work they might have to do on leaving office.

The Cabinet Office said the former deputy PM gave up his allowance in December after a couple of years.

He'll have to get by somehow on the £1 million a year that he reportedly gets from Facebook.



ENERGY BILLS are set to go up by around £100 a year after a review of the energy price cap by industry regulator Ofgem



Kick over the statues

A STATUE of Margaret Thatcher is being put up in her home town of Grantham—on a ten foot plinth to try to foil vandals. Ten feet? The Angel of the North, her polar opposite, is 66 feet and someone put a Santa hat on it at Christmas.

But anyway. There you go. It's costing £300,000 for the statue. Worth every penny.

Troublemaker is in no way endorsing any act of vandalism but there are a number of excellent ladder hire places in Grantham. One very near the station.

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'Why we're walking out of school to save our world'

>>Continued from page 1

the world." He added that imminent climate chaos left him "scared".

"I'm only 15 and I'm told climate change will be out of our hands in 11 years," he said.

Sixth form students at Fulford School in York used the Snapchat messenger app to organise their strike with students from a nearby school.

Ewan Williamson told Socialist Worker there was "excitement" about the walkout and he was planning to spend this week convincing others to join in.

"I'm glad it's a strike, and not a normal demonstration. It's showing the government it's important to school students, and it's showing directly that we're upset and angry," he said.

The school climate strikes movement was unleashed by 16 year old Greta Thurnberg, who began staging long protests outside the Swedish parliament in August last year.

Campaigns

The #FridaysForFuture campaign inspired by Greta has since gone global, with big student-led campaigns in Australia, Belgium and Germany.

This week's strike is set to be the first large-scale action in Britain.

Ewan said there's a widespread level of agreement among students at his school.

"Among our generation, you don't have to talk about it for it to be agreed," he said.

And he added that people on the Snapchat group have "come to it from a range of different levels. Some are already really involved, and some are just passionate and know it's a problem."

The climate strikes come at a time when groups such as Extinction Rebellion have hit the headlines for their protests.

Murray is involved in Extinction Rebellion, and said his "whole family



PROTESTERS FROM the Extinction Rebellion movement blocked the road in Hackney, east London, last Saturday

PICTURE: GUY SMALLMAN

tries to keep it as environmentally friendly as possible".

"We try to reduce single use plastic. But that's not enough. We need more people to get involved. It's all well and good one family doing it, but we need more pressure," he said.

Friday's action will need to be part of a much wider movement that can seriously tackle catastrophic climate change.

Action on climate change cannot remain as just a discussion in academic papers or between insincere political leaders. It must happen soon, and on a systematic basis, to avoid the worst case scenario.

Murray said, "One thing we do know is sea levels are rising, coastal towns like Scarborough will be under water—and that's only one of the things that could happen."

Knife

Ewan agrees with Murray about the scale of the problem. "We're really kind of on a knife edge about what could happen and how bad it could be," he said.

He said that, because most of the effects of climate change "aren't tangible yet", people can feel helpless.

"You feel helpless, that's why you've got to get out there. If people

feel they're part of something bigger, they will get interested in joining in."

The #FridaysForFuture movement is a cry of rage by a generation growing up in an increasingly unsafe and desperate world.

Its focus on collective action pulls away from solutions that focus on individual lifestyle choices.

And it points directly at who is to blame for the impending climate catastrophe—the fossil fuel bosses polluting our planet and the politicians allowing them to.

All socialists should think about how they can support the students fighting for a better future.

Trump expected in winter

US PRESIDENT Donald Trump is expected to visit Britain in December this year.

He is said to be coming for a summit of the Nato military alliance.

The Sunday Times newspaper also reported earlier this year that Trump might come for the 75th anniversary of D-Day on 6 June.

Trump must be opposed.

A carnival of resistance met Trump when he came to Britain last July.

Around 250,000 people poured onto the streets of London.

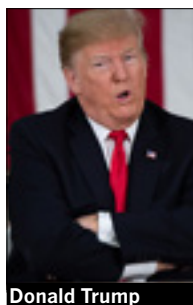
And thousands more joined protests in towns and cities across Britain.

Workers, students, anti-racists, women's groups, black, white, Muslim and LGBT+ people were all out together.

Protesters hounded Trump on the stops of his visit—from Scotland to Blenheim Palace in Oxfordshire.

People must fill the streets again if Trump dares to come this year.

Mass protests against Trump will boost people everywhere fighting back against the right and racism.



Donald Trump

Bugs face a global wipeout

THE ENTIRE insect population of the planet is facing extinction.

That's the conclusion of Francisco Sanchez-Bayo, author of a ground-breaking piece of new research on insect population decline released on Monday of this week.

The report found that climate change will have catastrophic impacts on "the planet's ecosystems and for the survival of mankind".

And it said that "insects as a whole will go down the path of extinction in a few decades".

This would have dramatic knock-on effects for animals and human food production. Researchers point to rising temperatures, widespread use of insecticides and intensive agricultural farming for the decline.

And on Tuesday, a report from the IPPR think tank said "environmental breakdown could trigger catastrophic breakdown of human systems". It said this could



Could bees soon be extinct?

see "economic, social and political shocks cascade through a globally linked system".

The report examined the combined effect of changes to weather systems, loss of ecosystems and the damage caused by increasing storms and droughts.

This would cause a "collapse of key social and economic systems, at local and potentially even global levels".

This is not something that's centuries away—the effects are being felt right now. All the evidence points to floods, wildfires and extreme temperature events dramatically increasing.

The research underlines what is already known—that climate change poses a fundamental threat to human existence.

It will take a huge and radical challenge to the system to address this global crisis.

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May in crisis over EU deal as divisions get deeper for Tories

by TOMÁŠ TENGYEL-EVANS

THERESA MAY has launched another desperate bid to delay a vote on her Brexit deal.

There is just over a month to go until Britain officially leaves the European Union (EU) on 29 March. MPs will debate and vote on a general Brexit motion in parliament on Thursday of this week.

And May has said MPs will get to vote on her EU Withdrawal Agreement by the end of February—with no guarantee that the vote will be binding.

May hopes this will buy her time to renegotiate the terms of her deal with EU officials.

The sticking point remains Britain's border in Northern Ireland. Under pressure from EU rulers, May accepted a "backstop".

This is an attempt to avoid a hard border, with physical barriers and customs checks, between Northern Ireland and Ireland.

Under May's deal, there would be a two-year transition period after 29 March where the EU and Britain would remain in a "common customs territory".

The backstop would kick in if the EU and Britain fail to negotiate trading agreements after those two years are up.

It would see Northern Ireland remain in the EU single market and customs union. And there would be limited customs checks between Britain and Northern Ireland.

May supported a Tory backbench amendment calling for "alternative arrangements" to the backstop last month. She saw off another parliamentary defeat for the Tory government, but only by gutting her own Brexit deal.

The round of Brexit votes were part of a "neutral motion"—jargon for non-binding. But deep divisions within the Tory party and nationalist posturing mean May can't

BACK STORY

Theresa May is fighting to save her Brexit deal with the EU

● May was forced to postpone a vote on the deal last year as she knew MPs wouldn't back it

● MPs then rejected her deal in January by a majority of 230—a historic defeat in the Commons

● What happens to the border in Northern Ireland is one of the key sticking points in the deal

● But EU rulers have said they won't renegotiate—leaving May open to another damaging defeat

simply ignore them. The "alternative arrangements" in the amendment could include a free trade zone between Britain and Ireland.

But the EU has already made clear that it will not renegotiate the deal—and the backstop in particular.

The EU is a regional capitalist bloc where states band together to compete with rivals such as China.

While EU rulers want free movement of goods, services and people within EU borders, they want a strong, external border to protect their profits.

A free trade area would be a chink in its customs union and its "Fortress Europe" policy that locks out refugees.

Labour Party leader Jeremy Corbyn said that his proposals for a permanent customs arrangement with the EU would solve the problem.

But this proposal makes concessions to a big business vision of Brexit (see right).

The answer is to exploit the Tory divisions and fight for a Brexit that benefits workers and migrants.

We need to say, "yes to freedom of movement" and "no to the single market". And the real solution to the impasse over the backstop is for Britain to get out of Ireland.



THERESA MAY at the European Parliament last week

PICTURE: CC-BY-4.0; © EUROPEAN UNION 20XY — SOURCE: EP

Labour's Brexit plan is a mistaken concession to the bosses' agenda

JEREMY CORBYN's five-point plan to deliver Brexit won backing from the European Union (EU) and fits with the demands of business groups.

That should be a warning. Guy Verhofstadt, Brexit co-ordinator for the European Parliament, tweeted, "I welcome Jeremy Corbyn's letter making a cross-party approach for the first time possible."

"From the hell we're in today, there is at last hope of a heavenly solution, even if it won't be paradise."

European Council president Donald Tusk said the letter was a "promising way" out of the impasse.

Last year the bosses' Confederation of British Industry and the Institute of Directors welcomed a similar Labour plan to the one rolled out last week.

It's easy to see why they like the offer. It calls for a customs union that would almost certainly stop Britain from making independent trade deals separate from those negotiated by the EU.



Labour leader Jeremy Corbyn

Another point calls for "close alignment with the single market, underpinned by shared institutions and obligations".

If Labour decides it wishes to be fully in the single market, the EU will insist it signs up to state-aid rules. These limit intervention in businesses and rule out wholesale nationalisation of sectors.

Some might see Corbyn's plan as a clever manoeuvre to put more

pressure on the Tories. But it comes at the price of dumping a Brexit linked to wider class issues that is directed against the priorities of corporations and the rich.

Corbyn also made no mention of defending freedom of movement. And the Labour right moaned that Corbyn had not come out fully for a second referendum.

Unfortunately Corbyn and shadow chancellor John McDonnell have said Labour may back a second referendum.

That would seek to overturn the vote to leave the EU in the interests of the bosses.

Corbyn should stop trying to compromise with the Labour right, and instead support their deselection or removal.

The longer they are allowed to attack Corbyn, the greater the chance they will eventually lead a damaging split.

As May staggers from crisis to crisis, the crucial task for the unions and Labour is to mobilise workers in their own interests, not to back one or other version of a bosses' Brexit.

Hammond has to spend more to 'end austerity'

TORY chancellor Philip Hammond has to spend billions more to meet his pledge to end austerity, a think tank has said.

The Institute for Fiscal Studies (IFS) said Hammond would have to stump up £5 billion a year by 2023 for departments without ring-fenced budgets.

And a further £11 billion would be needed to maintain spending on unprotected services at their current proportion of national income.

IFS director Paul Johnson warned that without new money "we will continue to see cuts in some departments at least as a fraction of national income".

He added that the scale of the cuts has been "extraordinary historically".

"We've had £40



Austerity has cut services to ribbons

billion of cuts to department spending and cuts of 30 percent and 40 percent to some budget items," said Johnson.

"So even if he stops cutting, it's still not going to feel great in a lot of areas."

The Tories have repeatedly claimed they are giving new money to the NHS.

One Treasury spokesperson said,

"We have made clear that health is our number one spending priority by announcing a five-year settlement which will provide an extra £34 billion a year for the NHS by 2023-4."

But they are still demanding £22 billion in "efficiency savings" by 2020-1 under the guise of "sustainability and transformation plans".

Firms plot to raise our bills

MILLIONS OF people could be hit by a triple hike in their energy and water bills and council tax in the coming year.

Electricity and gas watchdog Ofgem has announced that it will lift two price caps in April.

This makes a mockery of the Tories' energy price cap, which they claimed would help ordinary people.

Energy bosses are likely to swiftly increase prices to a new maximum, which is supposedly "capped" at £1,254.

The new rates would see energy bosses charge £34 more than during last



Energy firms are set to raise prices

December and some 15 million households could be affected.

Martin Lewis of the Money Saving Expert advice site said, "The much-vaunted but ill thought through price cap will now feel like a damp squib to most people."

"It may have cut bills for three months, but from 1 April, the new rate jumps up

10 percent." On top of the energy price hikes, water and sewerage bills are expected to rise by 2 percent from April.

This would bring the average annual cost to £415 per household.

And council tax is set to rise by 5 percent in April—seeing household bills go up by an average of £80 a year.

Rudd admits food bank link

TORY WORK and pensions secretary Amber Rudd has admitted that Universal Credit (UC) has fuelled food bank use.

The Tories previously denied that their hated benefit is driving people into food poverty.

Rudd said "the fact that people had difficulty accessing their money early enough" when switching to UC could have led to more food bank use.

She claimed that "changes" to UC now give people more support.

In reality UC continues to plunge claimants into poverty. Ministers this week rejected proposals from a committee of MPs to ease sanctions on claimants.

UC is a mechanism for punishing the poor—it should be scrapped now.

Socialist Worker
WHAT WE THINK

TORY WILLIAMSON'S PUFFED UP IMPERIAL FANTASY

TORY defence secretary Gavin Williamson puffed himself up this week by laying out a fantasy vision of Britain as a global power.

Williamson promised to "confront" Russia and China by "delivering on Winston Churchill's vision" of a Royal Navy that could deliver a "reign of terror down enemy coasts".

And he urged the need to "enhance our lethality" and "hard power to support our interests".

Williamson hopes that Britain can play a role in the South China Sea.

"The passage of Royal Naval vessels through the South China Sea has been incredibly important," he said.

"To talk but fail to act risks our nation being seen as little more than a paper tiger."

Williamson's flight of fancy involves setting up new Royal Navy strike groups and sending the Queen Elizabeth aircraft carrier to the Pacific.

And a central plank of his plan is renewing the Trident nuclear weapons.

The South China Sea is full of imperialist rivalries between

the US, China and regional powers. Former US president Barack Obama began a policy of encirclement of China by setting up military bases in the region.

This continues under Donald Trump, but to a lesser degree. Williamson has also commissioned two new warships—to be converted from passenger ferries or other civilian vessel types.

He has ordered £7 million worth of "swarm" drones.

These are hardly the power moves of a state capable of threatening China, which had £138 billion military expenditure in 2017.

Williamson's boasting comes

Sections of the ruling class still mourn the loss of Britain's former empire

from a real desire of right wing Tories and elements of the British ruling class to still be capable of dealing out death and destruction on a world scale.

They mourn the loss of empire and want Britain to be able to act as a major power.

This generally means working with the biggest imperialist power—the US.

Theresa May has publicly distanced herself from Williamson.

Her spokesperson said, "In relation to China, I think we have set out areas where we have concerns—such as around cyber-intrusions against the UK and our allies."

"But it is also a country with which we have a strong and constructive relationship."

Britain can't compete with powers such as China. To claim that it can is a dangerous fantasy.

What's terrifying is that Williamson is prepared to seriously contemplate the possibility.

He parades himself around like a peacock while the Tories are throwing thousands of people into poverty.

The military and Trident should be scrapped.

CAPITALISM VS PLANET

TWO REPORTS this week spelled out the scale of the threat posed by climate change. They follow decades of similar warnings.

It can seem that everyone has an interest in tackling climate change because ultimately it will affect us all.

But the system we live in blocks sustainable, environmentally-friendly ways of living.

And the ruling class, the people in charge, have different interests to ordinary people. Under

capitalism a tiny group of rich people make decisions about how society is run.

The system revolves around bosses competing with each other to make money—whatever the longer term consequences.

So fossil fuel firms keep polluting because it's profitable.

Companies produce goods that are designed to wear out so they can sell us more stuff.

Duplication, overproduction and waste is built into the system. Energy is squandered lighting

up adverts to help firms flog their goods. Retail firms use extra packaging to cut delivery costs.

Millions of people live in homes that are difficult and expensive to heat, but will never be able to afford a new, energy efficient house.

Capitalism is an unsustainable system that makes a handful of people obscenely rich at the expense of the environment.

It's right to pressure them to do more on climate change. But ultimately we need to change the system to save the planet.

SOCIALIST REVIEW

TORIES AT AN IMPASSE

Can the left intervene?

Joseph Choonara

Plus

Jan Nielsen looks at the impact of austerity on women

Naima Omar and Lewis Nielsen on Nazis on campus

40 years on: John Rose explains the Iranian Revolution

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ANALYSIS

ALEX CALLINICOS



Colin Barker's vision of genuine socialism

COLIN BARKER, following Erik Olin Wright and Jeremy Hardy, is the latest outstanding socialist whom we have lost recently. Colin was among the last of the group of brilliant intellectuals Tony Cliff gathered around himself in the International Socialists (IS), now the Socialist Workers Party (SWP), between the 1950s and the 1970s.

Colin joined IS while he was a student at Oxford university in the early 1960s. He moved to Manchester to work at the Polytechnic, now Manchester Met. He and his lifelong partner and fellow activist Ewa made their lives and raised their children there.

During the 1960s Colin worked closely with Cliff. They sought in particular to trace the development of a rapidly changing working class movement. Together they wrote a small book, *Incomes Policy, Legislation, and Shop Stewards*, which foretold the explosion of rank and file militancy in the early 1970s.

In the 1970s Colin was reviews editor of *International Socialism*. It was then that I got to know him as he started to commission reviews from me. Our correspondence, as Colin gently corrected my blunders and deflated my pretensions, taught me to write. Later he helped to edit, with little enthusiasm but much patience, my first book, *Althusser's Marxism*.

I was simply one of many young socialists to whom, across several generations, Colin acted as an intellectual mentor. We loved his warmth, kindness, and good humour—he had the most infectious cackle. But no one confused these qualities with a lack of intellectual toughness.

Colin showed this when he intervened in the major debate that consumed many Marxist theorists during the 1970s about the relationship between the state and capital. He identified two crucial things others had missed. First, the state as capital—in other words, the state doesn't simply provide the conditions of capital accumulation but itself acts as a capitalist. Secondly, states exist "in the plural", in a system of competing states. Both these insights built on the theory of state capitalism developed earlier by Cliff.

Active

But Colin never retreated into pure theory. In the late 1970s he played an active role in launching the Anti Nazi League. And when the giant workers' movement Solidarnosc exploded in Poland in 1980-1, Colin supported Ewa, herself of Polish background, in covering events on the ground.

After Solidarnosc was crushed by a military coup, Ewa and Colin wrote a special issue of *International Socialism* devoted to making sense of the defeat.

Colin later wrote an outstanding book, *Festival of the Oppressed*, on the Polish experience. It also figured in *Revolutionary Rehearsals*, a collection he edited about workers' revolts from May 1968 in France to Iran 1978-9.

Colin continued to work on the Marxist theory of the capitalist state. But gradually his intellectual interests shifted to understanding the nature and dynamics of social movements. As always, there was a political connection.

Just as Colin studied the pattern of British working class struggle on the eve of the upturn of the late 1960s and early 1970s, so now he brought a rigorous Marxist method to bear as the great movements against capitalist globalisation and imperialist war exploded in 1999-2001.

Through the annual Social Movements Conference he organised in Manchester Colin helped to create a radical intellectual community that transcended the boundary between the academy and activism. Thanks to his role here, his own work, and the constant encouragement he gave younger scholars, Colin's influence steadily grew during the years of retirement from Manchester Met.

He reacted to the severe internal crisis the SWP experienced in 2012-13 by deciding to leave the organisation he had joined more than 50 years before. For me and many other SWP comrades this was a source of great sadness.

But Colin's departure didn't remove what we had developed in common during our long journey together.

In his final email to his friends and comrades last Sunday, Colin reaffirmed the vision of socialism from below central to the International Socialist tradition. That vision mingles with my memories of our times together as I mourn Colin and offer all my sympathies to Ewa, and to their daughters.



TRAFFIC WARDENS picketing in Camden on Monday

PICTURES: GUY SMALLMAN

'We won't let the NSL bosses push us around,' say strikers

by SARAH BATES

STRIKING TRAFFIC wardens aren't giving up on their fight for better pay—despite an insulting offer from bosses.

Around 130 Unison union members in Camden, north London, began the second week of their latest round of strikes on Monday.

The wardens—officially known as Civil Enforcement Officers—want £11.15 an hour, improved holiday allowance and better sick pay.

They voted overwhelmingly this week to reject the bosses' latest offer that would have meant a pay rise of just 17p an hour for most workers.

And the deal would have increased the gap between traffic wardens and supervisors.

Laughed

Ross, a traffic warden for seven years, laughed when he heard the bosses' meagre offer.

"It's too low—it shows what they think of you. But we're united, and we are one," he told *Socialist Worker*.

The contract is run by outsourcing giant NSL which collects millions in permits and fines for Labour-run Camden council. The parking contract is being re-tendered in 2020, and strikers want it to be brought back in house.

CCTV worker Duncan said that being employed directly by the council would mean parity of pay, terms and conditions with other council workers.

"Traffic wardens in other boroughs, such as Hammersmith and Fulham, are paid £14 an hour," he said. "It would be an end to arbitrary treatment from private contractors."

Last week's deal was rejected by some because it didn't address other grievances about injury at work and holiday allowances. If



workers are attacked or otherwise sustain an injury at work they are aren't given additional time off with company sick pay.

"We're outside walking for 8.5 hours a day," said traffic warden Jenny.

"People can push you, there's a lot of trouble. We get sick because of the weather."

"The way people look at us, and treat us, it's just abuse. We put ourselves at risk every second we're at work."

Picketing

Strikers have picketed their local bases and Camden council headquarters. Striker Henry said picketing was important "because we want to show we're solid and we're not going back".

"The offer was far lower than what's expected," he said. "But if members are willing to fight, then we can get there."

Many workers have decided not to book in for overtime since the first strikes last October. By Sunday—the last day of strikes, workers will have struck for 33 days.

It's a huge financial undertaking. But, said Duncan, "people are determined to see it through. Some people just don't like to get pushed around."

Workers' names have been changed. Request a striker to speak at your union meeting and rush messages of support to unison@camden.gov.uk

Fat cats hoarding cash

CAMDEN striker Jenny pointed out the money is there—but it's going straight to the bosses.

"NSL are able to give a 400 percent pay rise to a top director," she said. "It's not like the money isn't there—they need to share the profit." NSL insists it is unable to increase holiday allowance as it has a company-wide policy of 20 days per year.

But strikers found an advert for an NSL role in Brighton

advertising 28 holiday days, with the allowance increasing with long service.

Due to the Tory anti-union laws, workers will soon be

pushed to reballoon over whether to take more action.

They should vote to keep up their fight against fat cats robbing them of a decent wage.



Strikers last year

Labour left buckles in face of right's antisemitism smears

The row inside Liverpool Labour Party shows the right aren't going to back down from using accusations of antisemitism to silence the left and criticism of Israel, writes Nick Clark

RIGHT WING Labour MPs are outraged that more antisemites haven't been found in their party.

They demanded action after the Labour Party revealed it had investigated 673 alleged cases of antisemitism by its members since April—and expelled just 12.

That's a sign that the number of antisemites inside Labour is small. As a Labour Party spokesperson said, "These figures relate to about 0.1 percent of our party."

And right wing Labour MP Margaret Hodge admitted that she made over 200 of the allegations.

Hodge said last year, "It's a very fine line between being pro-Palestinian and being antisemitic."

But MPs demanded that more members should have been expelled anyway—despite not knowing details of any of the allegations.

As one MP complained, the barrier to expelling members was "an expectation of needing to prove everything with the party".

MPs had hoped that Labour's adoption of the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance definition of antisemitism last year would allow them to expel left wing members.

The definition includes an example of antisemitism that says it is antisemitic to describe Israel as a racist state.

This restricts legitimate criticism of Israel such as discussing the ethnic cleansing of Palestinians that accompanied its creation.

Labour Party members were bullied into dropping an attempt to hold one MP to account last week.

Disciplinary

Members of the Liverpool Wavertree Constituency Labour Party (CLP) were accused of antisemitism and harassment.

And they were threatened with disciplinary action by senior Labour figures.

It came after members of the party tabled motions of no confidence in their MP Luciana Berger.

She has been touted as leading a possible right wing split from Labour (see right).

MPs reacted with unfounded claims that the motions were motivated by antisemitism.

They accused members of the branch of targeting Berger—who is Jewish—because she has complained of antisemitism in the party.

The motions were withdrawn after Labour's deputy leader Tom Watson demanded that their CLP be suspended.

Real antisemitism has to be



LABOUR SUPPORTERS stand up for the right to criticise Israel

PICTURE: GUY SMALLMAN

fought. But the assault on party members shows the dangers of giving in to right wing smears.

Wavertree CLP said, "We as an executive have always and continue now to express total solidarity with Luciana as a victim of misogyny and of antisemitism—coming mostly from the far right.

"Our chair is himself Jewish and the suggestion that the CLP executive is in any way a party to bullying and antisemitism is a false and slanderous accusation."

Yet under threat of chaos and disunity from the right, Labour's leadership quietly put pressure on the CLP to have the motions withdrawn.

Even then Watson pushed for two members from the CLP to face disciplinary investigations.

It shows that—even after years of organising by the left to take control of Labour branches—the desire to keep unity means the right still have power in the party.

Countdown to centrist split

RIGHT WING Labour MPs have supposedly been threatening to split from Labour and form a new "centrist" party. Yet no one has publicly said they're going to do anything.

"Potential supporters" of a new party met for a drinks reception on Tuesday last week—that's if the Mail on Sunday newspaper is to be believed.

The reception was reportedly organised by former aides of Tony Blair.

Attendees included big hitters such as Harry Potter author JK Rowling and Rachel Riley from the TV show Countdown.

Rowling won support from the right in 2016 after saying Jeremy Corbyn should not be compared to Dumbledore.

A source said the new party hoped to "attract people with a more nuanced approach to politics and life".

Expelliarmus—Corbyn should disarm centrists like Rowling

ARMS SALES

MP plays down the death toll in Yemen

A LABOUR MP has attacked charities and human rights campaigners for speaking out against civilian deaths in Yemen.

Graham Jones—chair of the Commons committee on arms export controls—said reports of civilians killed by Saudi Arabian airstrikes are "grossly exaggerated".

Well over 10,000 civilians have been killed in the war—the vast bulk of them by the

Graham Jones MP enjoyed an expenses paid trip to the UAE

British-backed coalition led by Saudi Arabia.

Britain has sold almost £5 billion worth of arms to Saudi Arabia since its war on Yemen began in March 2015.

Some 14 million people are also on the brink of starvation caused by a Saudi blockade on the port city of Hodeidah.

Yet in a meeting of parliament's defence select committee earlier this month, Jones branded reports of civilian deaths by "NGOs and loony left wing organisations" as "dishonest".

Jones went on an expenses-paid fact finding trip to the UAE last year, one of the countries involved in the war on Yemen.

IN BRIEF

Huge march for nurses in Ireland

SOME 45,000 people rallied in the Irish capital, Dublin, last Saturday in support of a nurses' campaign for better pay.

Over 40,000 members of the Irish Nurses and Midwives Organisation and Psychiatric Nurses Association began a three-day strike on Tuesday of this week.

Nurses and midwives are underpaid and understaffed, meaning they cannot safely do their jobs. They are demanding a 12 percent pay rise.

Nurses told the crowd they had been overwhelmed by public support during their strike in recent weeks.

Opposition in Italy hits streets

UP TO 200,000 trade unionists and their supporters demonstrated in Rome last Saturday. It was the biggest union protest in Italy in four years.

Holding banners with slogans such as, "A future for work," demonstrators called for a massive government investment programme.

It was the first major mobilisation against the coalition government of the far right League party and the populist Five Star Movement.

Unions did not take well to a meeting between Five Star Movement chief Luigi Di Maio and members of the "Yellow Vests" protest in France.

The encounter caused an uproar between French and Italian diplomats.

Head of Italy's CGIL union Maurizio Landini said, "It is unusual, to say the least, that a deputy prime minister finds the time to meet opponents of the government in a neighbouring country but doesn't have the time to meet with the opposition in his own country."

US massacres Afghan civilians

US AIRSTRIKES in Afghanistan killed as many as 21 civilians last weekend.

They were reported to have been killed by two airstrikes in Helmand between Friday night and Saturday morning. The youngest victim is said to be a three year old child, shot by helicopter gunfire.

Afghan politician Mohammad Hashim Alkozai said US forces killed 13 people in one airstrike and eight more in a later one.

A US military spokesperson confirmed it had carried out airstrikes.

Well over 31,000 civilians have been killed in Afghanistan since the US invaded in 2001.

Full-scale revolt at rule of Sudanese president

by CHARLIE KIMBER

THOUSANDS OF Sudanese people took to the streets on Thursday of last week in the capital Khartoum.

They called on president Omar al-Bashir to leave, in a continuation of anti-government protests that began more than 50 days ago.

The resistance began over rises in the price of bread and other basic goods.

It has since become a full-scale revolt against the Bashir regime that has ruled since a military coup 30 years ago.

In a repeat of earlier assaults, the security forces fired tear gas to disperse the protests and carried out mass arrests and beatings.

Last Thursday's demonstration was the one of the largest ever organised in Khartoum city. Protesters chanted, "Freedom, peace, justice."

All the roads leading to the presidential palace were closed with security barriers.

Dispersed

Three days later security forces violently dispersed hundreds of people, mostly young women, demonstrating against the detention of women arrested at previous protests.

The protesters chanted, "Long live the struggle of Sudanese women," and "Down, that's it," one of the main slogans calling for the fall of Bashir.

Security forces at the protest in Omdurman, Sudan's second-largest city, were seen arresting young women and taking them away in trucks.

Outrage has followed the death in custody of teacher and political activist Ahmed Al-Khair. His



A SOLIDARITY protest in central London last Saturday

PICTURE: GUY SMALLMAN

muddled body was delivered to his family last week and, according to relatives, there were visible signs of torture all over his body.

This led to some largely spontaneous teachers' strikes.

Another high profile death, of Dr Babiker Abdelhamid, also caused fury.

Eyewitness alleged that a security officer shot him in cold blood while he was treating a wounded protester, leaving 14 shotgun pellet wounds in his body.

The incident prompted Bashir to claim, without supporting evidence, that the weapon used was not available in Sudan or in the possession of police and security forces.

The scale and length of the protests is a sign of the deep bitterness against Bashir—particularly among young people.

Almost half of the population of 40 million lives below the poverty line and inflation is up 30 percent-age points from a year ago.

The Sudanese Professionals Association coordinates the demonstrations and has held several powerful strikes.

It called for a protest in Omdurman on Tuesday this week and another in Khartoum on Thursday.

Solidarity protests took place in London and Liverpool last Saturday. The MENA solidarity network in Britain is circulating a support statement. For details go to bit.ly/SudanSolidarity

FRANCE

Armed cops blow Yellow Vest's hand off in Paris

TENS OF thousands of Yellow Vests demonstrated in France for the thirteenth weekend in a row last Saturday—despite new laws passed last week to curtail protests.

France's interior ministry said 51,400 people were involved. But prominent Yellow Vests released their own "Yellow Number" figure of 116,000.

Around 6,000 marched in Toulouse, 5,000 in Bordeaux and Paris, 4,500 in Lyon, 3,000 in Dijon and around 2,000 in Marseille, Metz and Montpellier.

Police's brutal response to the protests resulted in a protester's hand being blown off by a teargas grenade.

According to an eyewitness, the person who lost their hand was a photographer trying to take pictures of people protesting around the National Assembly building.

"When the cops went to disperse people, he got hit by a grenade in the calf," said Cyprien Royer. "He wanted to bat it away so it didn't explode by his leg and it went off when he touched it."

"We put him to one side and called the street medics. It wasn't pretty—he was screaming with pain, he had no fingers—he didn't

have much above the wrist."

Martin, a factory worker in Toulouse, told Socialist Worker, "In our city it was one of our biggest protests so far."

"It was very determined, and there is constant debate now about what demands to put forward and to how to fight."

"We aren't going away." Last week's day of strikes, called by two union federations for demands linked to the Yellow Vests, was an important

beginning. The CGT union federation said, "In more than 200 cities in France, nearly 300,000 people—whether their vests are red or yellow—hit the streets to express their common demands—an increase in the minimum wage, wages and pensions, for more social and tax justice, and an improvement in public services."

Strikes were limited in most regions, largely because for months the union leaders have attacked or ignored the Yellow Vests.

But there is clearly a potential for more action, and for the mood of revolt to spread further into the unionised working class.



Massacre apology needed

I WAS about ten years old when I first learned from my mother about the Jallianwala Bagh massacre.

It was carried out by the British colonials on 13 April 1919 in India, hearing about it made my blood boil.

The Bagh—a public garden—is a small, walled space of six to seven acres with few exits.

Some 20,000 unarmed people had gathered there on the day of the festival of Baisakhi, the main Sikh festival.

Troops, under the command of Colonel Reginald Dyer, fired directly into them using 1,500 rounds, until they ran out of ammunition.

As the people ran for cover, they packed together and some bullets went through three or four people. More than a thousand were killed and many thousands injured.

Only a month earlier the Rowlatt Act had been passed with the purpose of curbing the growing nationalist upsurge in the country and it forbade large political gatherings.

The British wanted to use the massacre to cover the Indians into submission.

But it had totally the opposite effect as it only enraged millions of Indians and inspired them to take an active part in the fight for freedom.

Until this day no British government has apologised for this abominable crime.

Please sign the petition demanding an apology.

bit.ly/AmritsarPetition

Balwinder Rana
West London



ILLUSTRATION: TIM SANDERS

Labour left lost momentum —we need to fight for more

LABOUR LEFT group Momentum burst into Haringey, north London, in 2015.

Its meetings of 100-200 socialists were full of hope and talked of building a new social movement.

It was at a Momentum meeting that Haringey council's plan for a massive programme of estate demolitions and "regeneration" was exposed.

And it was also at a Momentum meeting that the first protest against the proposed Haringey Development Vehicle (HDV) was organised.

The campaign, involving tenants, housing activists and socialists inside and outside

Labour, grew into a major challenge. In November 2017 over 1,000 attended selection meetings and successfully deposed the right wing Labour leadership.

Left wingers and leading Momentum members lead the new council.

The HDV was stopped—but the council is still constrained by Tory cuts and is locked into deals with other contractors.

And "regeneration" continues. The council is planning to demolish London's largest Latin American market.

This will be in "partnership" with another property developer. Meanwhile, the last regular meeting of Haringey Momentum

was in July 2018 and its AGM voted last October to suspend activities until further notice.

There is a crisis of passivity on the left in Britain largely caused by the Brexit paralysis and Labour's focus on parliamentary manoeuvres.

The exciting new left forces unleashed by Momentum have been throttled by a focus on the internal Labour Party processes.

These people have not disappeared and are still opposed to austerity, racism and war.

We need an independent left that can take the fight to the streets, workplaces and estates.

Simon Hester
North London

Take inspiration from striking Irish nurses

AS A British health worker in the NHS it has been inspiring to see 37,000 members of the Irish Nurses and Midwives Organisation (INMO) strike over staffing levels and pay.

Members of the Psychiatric Nurses Association (PNA) also implemented a temporary overtime ban in mental health facilities.

Health workers aim to provide the best and safest care for our patients.

This is simply not possible when we are

underpaid, burnt out and understaffed.

So I see this strike as an act of care and an example to health workers in Britain.

The Irish government's response so far has been an insult, offering talks that do not include discussing pay.

I hope that Irish nurses remain firm in their demand that all their conditions be met. With over two thirds of the public in support of the strike, it is theirs to win.

Jenny Leow
East London

Oscars needs to address its problems

THE UPCOMING Oscars and the #MeToo movement will clash again in 2019.

This should be the time for not only the Oscars, but also for Hollywood, to change.

It could start by addressing the pay of women who are still paid significantly less than their male co-stars.

And women have been subjected to years of toxic culture created by the likes of Harvey Weinstein.

For instance, director Bryan Singer was nominated for five awards



It's time to change

despite allegations of sexual assault. The Oscars withdrew his nominations but only after public pressure.

Surely films are capable of being made by people who do not have an

extensive list of sexual abuse allegations behind them.

This year women are only 25 percent of nominees in non-gender specific categories.

But after the ceremony the media will instead be focused on humiliating the "worst dressed" women actresses.

#MeToo plays an important role in the call for women's rights, especially in an industry with so much influence over society.

Isabel Ringrose
York

Just a thought...

Don't change fracking rules

I'M RELIEVED to see that the government has rejected requests from fracking bosses to relax restrictions.

Cuadrilla wants the Tories to review procedures that mean the firm has to stop when fracking causes earthquakes.

The Tories say the earthquake rules will stay—but why don't they just give up on fracking our planet altogether?

Janet Dyer
East London

Careful about what you say

PLEASE could everyone be careful with their comments on Hillsborough.

There's an ongoing court trial and I'd hate for anything to put that into to jeopardy. Social media is being observed for this.

Carl Beebee
On Facebook

Victory to the Yellow Vests

WHEN WILL Macron realise that the French people can't be bullied by the right wing elite? They will fight back and quite rightly so.

Bruce Henderson
On Facebook

■ ARE WE looking to overthrow the French government? If not why not?

Leighto Caido
On Facebook

Time to bin outsourcers

OUTSOURCER NSL holds over 60 council contracts, and its CEO gets nearly £750,000 a year.

Councils need to seriously reconsider their outsourcing process.

Debbie Spedding
On Facebook

■ SOLIDARITY TO the striking traffic wardens from Devon County Unison Civil Enforcement Officers.

Dean Fowler
On Facebook

A literary sensation

CRUIKEY—THE Socialist Workers Party gets a mention in Iron Maiden singer Bruce Dickinson's autobiography.

Julian Hunt
On Twitter

Activists are gearing up for an international day of protest against racism and fascism on 16 March. Organisers from the US and Europe spoke to **Socialist Worker** about how they're mobilising to beat back the right

ACROSS THE world politicians are ramping up their racist assault against Muslims, migrants and refugees. And their state-sponsored racism is fuelling the rise of fascist and far right forces.

The international day of action against racism on 16 March is a chance to strengthen the movement against them.

In Europe far right parties such as the Alternative for Germany (AfD) are coordinating their efforts to grab more seats in the European elections in May.

There will be demonstrations against racism in Austria, Germany, France, Poland and other countries.

Many of the far right forces in Europe have been inspired by Donald Trump and the alt right.

That's why it's important that US anti-racist activists will join the international day of action for the first time.

And in Britain the divided Tories are trying to get back on the front foot by whipping up more racism against migrants. This could once again boost fascists such as Tommy Robinson.

Be part of the movement against racism and the far right on 16 March.



STAND UP To Racism supporters marching in November last year

PICTURE: GUY SMALLMAN

'Fascists in Poland even demonstrated at Auschwitz on Holocaust Memorial Day'

Andy Zebrowski **United Against Racism activist, Poland**

POLAND'S RACIST, right wing government is doing everything it can to make fascism appear normal.

Every November the fascists organise and lead an Independence Day march in the capital Warsaw.

Last year's 200,000-strong march to mark 100 years of Polish independence was jointly organised by fascists and the highest state authorities.

It was fronted by the president, prime minister, cabinet ministers and columns of military vehicles with soldiers walking alongside fascists.

This is boosting the fascists' confidence.

Around 50 fascists demonstrated at Auschwitz death camp on Holocaust Memorial Day last month. They went unchallenged by the police even after chanting, "Time to fight Jewry."

We know that the majority of people are disgusted by fascism and racist attacks. And the anti-racist demonstrations on 16 March are a great opportunity to show this on the streets.

The United Against Racism (Zjednoczeni Przeciw Rasizmowi) in Poland is calling for demonstrations and pickets throughout the country. The

coalition brings together activists from left parties, the Greens, trade unions, interfaith groups and NGOs working with refugees and migrants.

At the moment actions are planned in 13 towns and cities.

The biggest demonstration will be in Warsaw where we have managed to involve school teachers and pupils in spreading the word. The student anti-fascist committees in Warsaw and Gdansk on the northern coast are also involved.



'Breakthrough for far right was a shock'

David Karvala **United Against Fascism and Racism activist, Spanish state**

THE FAR right Vox party's parliamentary breakthrough last December was a shock for people across the Spanish state.

It grabbed 12 seats in the parliament of the southern region of Andalusia.

Commentators argued that the mainstream conservative PP, with its racist policies, would mop up fascist voters. In fact, when mainstream parties use racist and far right arguments it makes it easier, not harder, for the fascists.

So here the international day of protests will be strongly focused on the call to "Stop Vox".

We initiated Unity Against Fascism and Racism (UCFR) in Catalonia in 2010—and we have defeated the fascist Platform for Catalonia party.

Unfortunately, in most of the Spanish state the fight against the far right has so far been restricted to small, far left "antifa" groups. Despite their best efforts, they cannot stop Vox on their own.

UCFR published a call last December encouraging people in other areas to build united movements against racism and the far right. It has been signed by a whole range of movements and

organisations. A Spanish state-wide meeting last month was a great success.

Activists from other areas went home with thousands of leaflets, and above all the desire to start building movements like UCFR.

The next date on their agenda is 23 March, rather than 16 March. That's to allow more time to build for them after the international women's day actions on 8 March, which will be massive and include opposition to Vox.

Establishing united movements against the far right in more areas will be a big step forward.

ANTI-RACIST PROTESTS on 16 March in Germany come less than a year after the large Nazi mobilisations in Chemnitz. They were followed by hundreds of attacks against Muslims, Jews and other minorities.

The activities in Chemnitz last August have increased the confidence of the Nazi wing of the AfD.

Polls in October 2018 predicted that the AfD would get 16 percent of the vote in the European Union elections in May. More recent polls have AfD support down to between 10 and 12 percent, which

is still no cause for complacency. In addition to spreading hatred against migrants, the AfD's euro election campaign is based around opposing "Islamisation".

Not everything is bleak.

Anti-racism is also on the rise as a reaction to the Chemnitz attacks and the threat of the AfD. Some 250,000 people protested for refugee rights at the #Unteilbar (indivisible) demonstration in Berlin last October.

Unfortunately left party Die Linke has not been able to gain from rising anti-racism as much as it should.

As hundreds of thousands marched for refugees, the party was beset by an internal fight. The co-leader of the parliamentary group, Sahra Wagenknecht, attacked the party's policy of open borders.

The Die Linke parliamentary fraction has called an anti-racism conference in March. As well as MPs, speakers include representatives of refugee, Jewish and Muslim groups.

It's essential that the left unites with victims of racism, rather than treat them as a problem to be washed away.



'The massacre at the synagogue in Pittsburgh was a wake up call. We had to start organising'

Iannis Delatolas **United Against Hate activist, US**

SINCE THE election of Donald Trump we have seen the worrying rise of the racists and Nazis in the US.

The far right don't think Trump is going to give them exactly what they want. But he has opened up space in which they can operate.

There have been a number of worrying developments.

Recently a far right group called Patriot Prayer made threats against meetings of the International Socialist Organisation and Democratic Socialists of America at the university in Portland, Oregon.

The administration caved in and called the socialist meetings off. It's a dangerous precedent.

Patriot Prayer also attacked the offices of the Industrial Workers of the World trade union in the same city.

The massacre at the synagogue in Pittsburgh in November 2018 was a wake up call.

We started organising in the week after the massacre.

We have been arguing for a broad anti-racist, anti-fascist campaign to confront the far right and racists and discuss how to fight Trump and his vision of society.

We have a group in New York City and a group in Washington DC called United Against Hate. We're building for the 16 March international day of anti-racist protests. There's going to be a rally in Foley Square in the centre of New York, and then possibly a march if we have enough people.

So far we have succeeded in bringing together the left, including people who voted for Hillary Clinton. There's one group in particular called Rise and Resist. They do migrant and refugee solidarity work, and call successful protests every week, sometimes two.

Building these links is important.



'The people are on our side'

David Albrich **activist in Platform for a More Humane Asylum Policy**

THIS YEAR began with a frontal attack on human rights by Austria's Tory/Nazi coalition government.

The fascist FPÖ party interior minister Herbert Kickl said he would take on "strange legal structures, developed under totally different circumstances".

He was referring to the European Convention on Human Rights, which was formulated after the horror of the Holocaust and the Second World War. It guarantees the right to seek and secure asylum in other countries.

Kickl's declaration of war on human rights is not just the beginning of a new racist offensive ahead of the European elections in May.

It is part of the FPÖ's project to build a fascist street movement.

Fascists today try to establish a favourable social climate, where open street violence is again tolerated. So the Tory/Nazi coalition is increasing deportations of refugees and has introduced a ban on headscarves in nurseries.

Most governments in Europe have turned rightwards, but people are on our side. Some 87 percent of people in Austria said they won't tolerate someone "glorifying national socialism".

We have to call the fascists what they are—it hurts them. We're building for a major demonstration in Vienna on 16 March under the slogan, "Stand up to racism." It is our best weapon to fight the rise of fascism.



WHAT WE STAND FOR

These are the core politics of the Socialist Workers Party.

INDEPENDENT WORKING CLASS ACTION

Under capitalism workers' labour creates all profit. A socialist society can only be constructed when the working class seizes control of the means of production and democratically plans how they are used.

REVOLUTION NOT REFORM

The present system cannot be patched up or reformed as the established Labour and trade union leaders say.

It has to be overthrown. Capitalism systematically degrades the natural world. Ending environmental crisis means creating a new society.

THERE IS NO PARLIAMENTARY ROAD

The structures of the present parliament, army, police and judiciary cannot be taken over and used by the working class. They grew up under capitalism and are designed to protect the ruling class against the workers.

The working class needs an entirely different kind of state—a workers' state based upon councils of workers' delegates and a workers' militia.

At most parliamentary activity can be used to make propaganda against the present system.

Only the mass action of the workers themselves can destroy the system.

INTERNATIONALISM

The struggle for socialism is part of a worldwide struggle. We campaign for solidarity with workers in other countries.

We oppose everything which turns workers from one country against those from other countries.

We oppose racism and imperialism. We oppose all immigration controls.

We support the right of black people and other oppressed groups to organise their own defence. We support all genuine national liberation movements.

The experience of Russia demonstrates that a socialist revolution cannot survive in isolation in one country.

In Russia the result was state capitalism, not socialism. In Eastern Europe and China a similar system was later established by Stalinist parties. We support the struggle of workers in these countries against both private and state capitalism.

We are for real social, economic and political equality of women. We are for an end to all forms of discrimination against lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people.

We defend the right of believers to practise their religion without state interference.

THE REVOLUTIONARY PARTY

To achieve socialism the most militant sections of the working class have to be organised into a revolutionary socialist party.

Such a party can only be built by activity in the mass organisations of the working class.

We have to prove in practice to other workers that reformist leaders and reformist ideas are opposed to their own interests. We have to build a rank and file movement within the unions.

To join us, turn to page 16 or go to www.swp.org.uk or phone 020 7840 5602 for more information

{ SOCIALIST WORKER } PUBLIC MEETINGS

EDINBURGH

Antisemitism, the far right, Zionism and the left
Wed 20 Feb, 7.30pm,
Friends Meeting House,
7 Victoria St,
EH1 2JL

LONDON:HACKNEY

Know your enemy—alt-right, the far right and fascists
Wed 3 Apr, 7.30pm,
The Round Chapel,
2 Powerscroft Rd (corner
Lower Clapton Rd),
E5 0PU

LONDON:SOUTH

Know your enemy—alt-right, the far right and fascists
Wed 20 Feb, 7pm,
Karibu Centre,
7 Gresham Rd,
Brixton, SW9 7PH

LONDON:WEST & NORTHWEST

The Windrush scandal and the fight against deportations
Thu 21 Feb, 7.30pm,
Woodlane Community Centre,
78 White City Cl,
Shepherd's Bush,
W12 7DZ

PORTSMOUTH

Venezuela—what's behind the coup?
Wed 27 Feb, 7.30pm,
Somerstown
Community Centre,
River's St,
PO5 4EZ

{ SOCIALIST WORKER } BRANCH MEETINGS

Weekly meetings to discuss political issues and our local interventions. All welcome.

ABERDEEN

Know your enemy—alt-right, the far right and fascists
Mon 18 Feb, 6pm,
The Snug,
Ma Cameron's,
6-8 Little Belmont St,
AB10 1JG

BARNSELEY

Hi-vis fury—what's behind the Yellow Vest revolt in France?

Thu 21 Feb, 7pm,
Room 302 - The Civic,
Hanson St,
S70 2HZ

BIRMINGHAM

100 years since Rosa Luxemburg's murder—the German Revolution
Wed 20 Feb, 7pm,
Birmingham LGBT Centre,
38/40 Holloway Circus,
B1 1EQ

BOLTON

In the era of Trump and Bolsonaro—fighting for LGBT+ liberation
Wed 27 Feb, 7pm,
Bolton Socialist Club,
16 Wood St (off
Bradshawgate),
BL1 1DY

BRIGHTON & HOVE

Venezuela—what's behind the coup?
Wed 20 Feb, 7.30pm,
Friends Meeting House,
Ship St,
BN1 1AF

BRISTOL

Class, caste and oppression—the fight for women's liberation in India
Wed 20 Feb, 7.30pm,
YHA, 14 Narrow Quay,
BS1 4QA

BURNLEY AND PENDLE

How can Palestine be free?
Wed 20 Feb, 7.30pm,
Red Triangle Cafe,
160 St James's St,
BB11 1NR

CHESTERFIELD

What's happening in Yemen?
Thu 21 Feb, 7.30pm,
Chesterfield Library,
New Beetwell St,
S40 1QN



Women struck for equal pay in Glasgow last year

PICTURE: ANDREW MCGOWAN

Women, resistance & revolution Fighting sexism and exploitation

BIRMINGHAM

Wed 6 Mar, 7pm,
Birmingham LGBT Centre,
38/40 Holloway Circus,
B1 1EQ

LONDON

Wed 6 Mar, 7pm,
Bloomsbury Central
Baptist Church,
235 Shaftesbury Avenue,
WC2H 8EP

NEWCASTLE

Thu 7 Mar, 7pm,
Commercial Union House,
39 Pilgrim St,
NE1 6QE

NOTTINGHAM

Wed 6 Mar, 7pm,
International
Community Centre,
61b Mansfield Rd,
NG1 3FN

LIVERPOOL

Thu 14 Mar, 7pm,
Friends Meeting House,
22 School Ln,
L1 3BT

MANCHESTER:CENTRAL

Wed 6 Mar, 7pm,
Friends Meeting House,
6 Mount St,
M2 5NS

COLCHESTER

The art and politics of Frida Kahlo
Thu 28 Feb, 8pm,
Oyster Room,
Hythe Community Centre,
CO1 2FG

DERBY

Going beyond the binary—Marxism, gender and trans politics
Thu 21 Feb, 7pm,
West End Community Centre,
Mackworth Rd (next to
Britannia Mill), DE22 3BL

DONCASTER

Brexit, borders and the case for a united Ireland
Tue 19 Feb, 7.30pm,
Goose, 53-54 Hall Gate,
DN1 3PB

GLASGOW

Antisemitism, the far right, Zionism and the left
Thu 21 Feb, 7pm,
Avant Garde,
33-44 King St,
Merchant City, G1 5QT

HARLOW

Venezuela—what's behind the coup?
Thu 21 Feb, 7.30pm,
Friends Meeting House,
1 Church Leys,
CM18 6BX

HUDDERSFIELD

Venezuela—what's behind the coup?
Wed 20 Feb, 6.30pm,
Brian Jackson House,
2 New North Parade (near
both train and bus stations),
HD1 5JP

HULL

How women really won the vote
Thu 21 Feb, 7pm,
Cafe licious,
104 Cottingham Rd,
HU6 7RZ

KENT

Imperialism—why does capitalism create war?
Thu 21 Feb, 7.30pm,
Nucleus Arts Centre
(Conference Room),
272 High St, ME4 4BP

LANCASTER AND MORECAMBE

Venezuela—what's behind the coup?
Thu 21 Feb, 7pm,
Friends Meeting House,
Meeting House Lane, LA1 1TX

LEEDS: CITY CENTRE

Why we oppose all border controls
Thu 21 Feb, 7pm,
The Swarthmore
Education Centre,
2-7 Woodhouse Square,
LS3 1AD

LIVERPOOL

A Marxist history of the Labour Party
Thu 28 Feb, 7pm,
Friends Meeting House,
22 School Ln, L1 3BT

LONDON:HACKNEY

Venezuela—what's behind the coup?
Thu 21 Feb, 7.30pm,
The Round Chapel,
2 Powerscroft Rd (corner
Lower Clapton Rd), E5 0P

LONDON:HARINGEY

Capitalism vs the climate
Wed 20 Feb, 7.30pm,
St John Vianney Church Hall,
386 West Green Rd
(corner Vincent Rd),
N15 3QH

LONDON:ISLINGTON

In the era of Trump and Bolsonaro—fighting for LGBT+ liberation
Wed 20 Feb, 7pm,
The Old Fire Station,
84 Mayton St, N7 6QT

LONDON:NEWHAM

The Windrush scandal and the fight against immigration controls
Wed 27 Feb, 7pm,
Stratford Advice Arcade,
107-109 The Grove (next to
Morrison's car park), E15 1HP

LONDON:SOUTH

Politics of the mind—Marxism and mental distress
Wed 27 Feb, 7pm,
Vida Walsh Centre,
2b Saltoun Rd (near Effra Rd,
facing Windrush Square),
Brixton, SW2 1EP

LONDON:SOUTH EAST

How Europe underdeveloped Africa
Wed 20 Feb, 7pm,
Deptford Lounge,
9 Giffin St,
Deptford, SE8 4RH

LONDON:TOWER HAMLETS

100 years since Rosa Luxemburg's murder—the German Revolution
Wed 20 Feb, 7pm,
Epainos Church,
Lichfield Road, E3 5AT

LONDON:WALTHAM FOREST

In the era of Trump and Bolsonaro—fighting for LGBT+ liberation
Wed 20 Feb, 7.30pm,
William Morris
Community Centre,
6-8 Greenleaf Rd,
Walthamstow, E17 6QQ

LONDON:WEST & NORTHWEST

In the era of Trump and Bolsonaro—fighting for LGBT+ liberation
Thu 28 Feb, 7.30pm,
Woodlane Community Centre,
78 White City Cl,
Shepherd's Bush, W12 7DZ

MANCHESTER:CENTRAL

Venezuela—what's behind the coup?
Wed 20 Feb, 7pm,
Friends Meeting House,
6 Mount St, M2 5NS

NEWCASTLE

Know your enemy—alt-right, the far right and fascists
Thu 21 Feb, 7pm,
Commercial Union House,
39 Pilgrim St, NE1 6QE

NORWICH

In the era of Trump and Bolsonaro—fighting for LGBT+ liberation
Thu 21 Feb, 7.30pm,
Vauxhall Centre,
Johnson Place, NR2 2SA

NOTTINGHAM

Politics of the mind—Marxism and mental distress
Wed 3 Apr, 7pm,
International
Community Centre,
61b Mansfield Rd, NG1 3FN

OXFORD

Thu 7 Mar, 7pm,
Oxford Town Hall,
St Aldate's, OX1 1BX

SHEFFIELD: CITY CENTRE

Thu 7 Mar, 7pm,
Central United
Reformed Church,
60 Norfolk St (near Crucible
Theatre), S1 2JB

SWANSEA

Thu 7 Mar, 7.30pm,
Brynmill Community Centre,
St Albans Rd,
SA2 0BP

YORK

Wed 6 Mar, 7.30pm,
Sea Horse Hotel,
4 Fawcett St,
YO10 4AH

WOLVERHAMPTON AND WALSALL

Imperialism—why does capitalism create war?
Wed 20 Feb, 7.30pm,
Wild Bytes Cafe,
Darlington St, WV1 4HW

YORK

Orban, Hungary and the rise of the far right
Wed 27 Feb, 7.30pm,
Sea Horse Hotel,
4 Fawcett St,
YO10 4AH

{ MOVEMENT EVENTS }

COVENTRY

A world without racism and fascism
Tue 19 Feb, 7.30pm,
Esquires Coffee,
Coventry Transport Museum,
Millennium Place,
CV1 1JD
Public meeting organised by Stand Up To Racism

GLASGOW

Socialism 101 Glasgow—ideas to change the world
Sat 23 Feb, 12.30am,
The Griffin,
266 Bath St,
G2 4JP
Hosted by the Socialist Workers Party. Book your place at bit.ly/soc101glasgow

NATIONAL

Marxism 2019
A four-day festival of political ideas hosted by the Socialist Workers Party. Book your place at marxismfestival.org.uk

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A heartbreaking love story set in a deeply racist society

Director Barry Jenkins's new film delivers a powerful story about how the results of racism can poison the most beautiful parts of life, writes **Yuri Prasad**

THE FLAMES of the Civil Rights and Black Power movements were dying embers in 1974 when James Baldwin wrote *If Beale Street Could Talk*.

The Harlem world he created was harsh. Racism was rife, and few now believed that things were going to change.

But Baldwin insisted that there could be warmth amid the gloom. Director Barry Jenkins's new film of *Beale Street* captures that spirit beautifully.

Fonny (Stephan James) is a young man who brims with artistic ideas and plans for the future. In his decrepit basement flat he carves wood into works of art. To his family, he is a failure, a drop-out whose life is just a series of wrong turns.

But to his 19 year old fiancé Tish (Kiki Layne) he is everything. She takes his dreams and places them with her own.

Tish narrates us through their lives, from small children in the same neighbourhood to love-struck teenagers and young adults.

Together they plan a future, knowing all the time that the odds are stacked against them.

After months of looking for a flat to rent, but being continually knocked back by racist landlords, it appears the young couple have finally found somewhere to set up home.

Marked

But it seems like the shine has come off every hope Fonny has ever had.

After a run-in with a racist neighbourhood cop he is a marked man. Soon he is fitted up for the rape of a Puerto Rican woman on the other side of town.

And it is while he is in jail awaiting trial that Tish discovers she is pregnant.

It is then that the love Baldwin wrote of takes an expansive form.

This is not simply a tale of romance, rather it is a plea for deep-seated humanism. Tish's



DOCUMENTING THE estates of Bradford, 1970s (above) and McCullin's iconic photograph of a shell-shocked US Marine during the Tet Offensive in Hue, Vietnam, 1968.

PHOTOGRAPHS: DON MCCULLIN

Powerful Don McCullin retrospective

PHOTOGRAPHY

DON MCCULLIN

Until 6 May at Tate Britain
£16, £15 concessions

TATE BRITAIN'S Don McCullin retrospective—its first of a living photographer—is a huge collection of 250 of his images spanning half a century as a

photojournalist. He has been a witness to some of the biggest political events of the twentieth century, and has the photos to prove it.

From the US war in Vietnam to images depicting poverty and oppression in Britain, the scope of the exhibition is wide-ranging.

McCullin has been critical of modern newspaper editors for no

longer publishing images like his. At the centre of them are ordinary people, often in desperate circumstances. "Proprietors don't want gloom—they want glamour," he said at the opening of the exhibition.

This is a powerful testament to his ability to tell the stories of ordinary people with the click of a button.

family and Fonny's father form an unbreakable bond around her and throw their lives into trying to free her would-be husband.

The dads set about various criminal enterprises in a desperate bid to raise money for a good lawyer.

Tish's mother Sharon (Regina King) travels to Puerto Rico to find the woman who accused Fonny of rape. The resulting encounter is horrific.

As the story unfolds the gap between the sumptuous cinematography, costumes and sets—and the

harshness of black American life grows ever wider.

And what we are left with is a sense that Fonny and Tish's dreams are out of reach, separated from them by a barrier.

Describing her regular jail visits, Tish says, "I hope that nobody has ever had to look at anybody they love through a glass."

In that sense, the young couple represent all the dashed hopes of the previous era.

Those who saw his earlier

film—*Moonlight*—will know that Jenkins is a master of detail, and he rarely puts a foot wrong here.

The film can't offer us a happy ending.

For Fonny, and for thousands of others in jail today, that would be a fantasy.

And, while it offers hope in the form of human solidarity, it is nonetheless an utterly damning verdict on American racism.

If Beale Street Could Talk is on general release

TELEVISION

DAS BOOT

Wednesdays at 9pm
Sky Atlantic

A NEW adaptation of the classic 1981 television series *Das Boot* is available on Sky Atlantic and online streaming services.

The new series brings a strong sense of claustrophobia. It also features new characters



A new adaptation of the classic *Das Boot* heaves into view

and a story of resistance to the Nazi regime.

This series doesn't fall into the trap of a simplistic good vs evil narrative.

Instead it shows how people are shaped by events out of their control, and made to pay the highest price for the decisions of others.

TELEVISION

INSIDE EUROPE

Available on BBC iPlayer

THIS THREE-part series draws back the curtain on the internal machinations at the heart of the European political class. It features revealing interviews with Nicolas Sarkozy, George Osborne and figures central to the Brexit process.

Episode two showed how the EU battered Greece's Syriza government into submission.

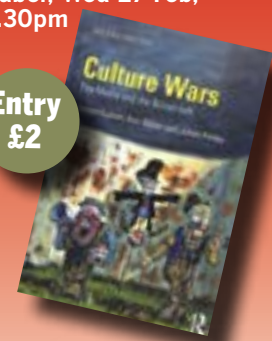
Event at

BOOKMARKS

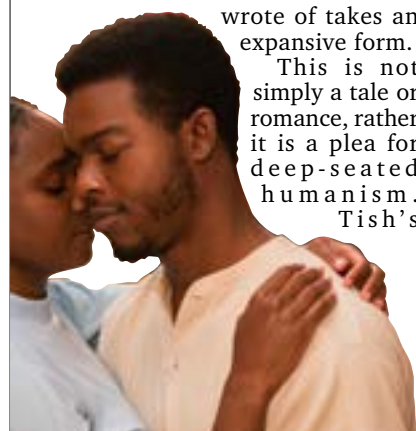
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With author Ivor
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Tish and Fonny must fight everything racist US society throws at them

Britain's rulers have always treated the lives of black people from the Caribbean with complete disregard.

In the 1600s British and other European colonists began transporting African slaves to the Caribbean in huge numbers.

Now, in 2019, the British government arranges mass deportations to send people it has branded undesirable to Jamaica.

Connecting the two are centuries of racism, imperialism, slavery—and revolt.

The countries of the Caribbean today are still impoverished by imperialism and the legacies of their colonial past.

The people who live and migrate from there are still oppressed by the racism that has its roots in slavery.

Yet those countries also owe their existence to heroic revolts that constantly challenged European colonialism and racism—gradually winning freedom from slavery, then independence from empire.

And at the beginning of it all is the Atlantic slave trade.

European colonists began kidnapping and transporting Africans to the Caribbean in vast numbers around the middle of the 17th century.

This enormous enforced movement of people—as many as 15 million—wrecked the African continent and transformed the population of the Caribbean.

But for the colonists it was simply the best solution to a very modern capitalist problem—how to produce as much as possible as fast and as cheaply as possible.

The sugar industry based in the Caribbean colonies was booming and the old workforce of European workers who were forced to work there wasn't enough. So, starting in Barbados, the English sugar planters began importing a giant workforce of slaves.

Horrible

That this was their answer makes the cold and horrifying logic of capitalism all too clear.

As Robin Blackburn, a historian of the Atlantic slave trade, wrote, “The slave-owners discovered the advantages of what economists today call ‘human capital’.”

From around 1650 slaves made up the bulk of the workforce in Barbados, and in Jamaica from the 1670s.

Sugar planters found they could work slave gangs longer and harder under the brute force of the whip than they could the contracted European workers.

In fact the work was so brutal that slaves didn't often live more than a few years after they were brought over from Africa. The average life



CEREMONIE DU Bois-Caiman by Andre Normil depicts the start of the Haitian Revolution

A HISTORY OF RACISM & REVOLT

Mass deportations to Jamaica follow a long line of racist attacks on people of Caribbean descent—but that history also shows that people always resist, writes Nick Clark



Robin Blackburn

expectancy for a slave after the journey from Africa was about seven to ten years.

So tens of thousands of people were captured into slavery and sold to Caribbean traders every year just to stop the slave workforce dying out.

This mass trafficking of humans became the horrific heart of a triangle of trade. It took sugar from the Caribbean to England, weapons from England to Africa—and people from Africa to the Caribbean.



The risk of slave rebellion threatened to undermine the entire system

They were reduced to commodities and treated as such.

Sometimes ship's captains would throw entire shiploads of slaves overboard, just to claim the compensation on their “property”.

For a voyage that could last some nine or ten months, the “standard space per slave” in the hold of a slave ship was five foot long, 11 inches wide and 23 inches high.

Locked in such cramped and dark conditions below deck,

slaves' flesh could be worn to the bone by rubbing against the motion of the ship.

The floor of a slave hold could become so covered in blood, mucus and muck that a ship's doctor testified for the anti-slavery abolition movement “that it resembled a slaughter house”.

Slave traders needed a racist ideology to justify this. They developed a whole pseudoscience to explain why Africans could be regarded as less than human.

They also needed a system of violence to keep it all running—and came up with some of the most appalling acts of brutality.

The risk of slave rebellion was built into the whole setup. It was constant and at its height threatened to undermine the entire system of slavery.

Slave owners had to deal not just with minor acts of disobedience and skirmishes, but also plots of rebellion, strikes and uprisings.

They were painfully aware that they were vastly outnumbered by their slaves, and tried to keep them down with acts of violence to warn slaves off from rebelling.

LASHINGS were part of daily life on the plantations. So were amputations, mutilation and cropping of fingers and toes.

Slaves would have their flesh whipped off them and then have salt, pepper, vinegar or gunpowder rubbed into their wounds.

Women faced the additional threat of rape and sexual violence.

And many slave owners had their own favourite, personalised methods of punishment. Thomas Thistlewood, an overseer in Jamaica, enjoyed forcing slaves to defecate in each other's mouths before gagging them.

More serious punishments included execution by burning or on the breaking wheel, which involved the slow crushing of bones.

Others included being gibbeted—hung in a cage and left to die.

“Tacky's revolt” in Jamaica in 1760 was one of the largest uprisings, involving as many as 30,000 slaves. It was a serious challenge to the rule of the slave owners.

Colonial ruler Edward Long said its purpose was “the entire extinction of the white inhabitants and the partition of the island into small principalities in the African mode”.

Colonial forces killed 400 rebels, deported 500 and executed or tortured to death another 100 in order to make “terrible examples of some of the most guilty of the captives,” in the words of slaver Bryan Edwards.

For all that, slaves rebelled time and again.

Historian Orlando Patterson

said that in 180 years of Jamaica's history as a slave colony, “hardly a decade went by without a serious, large scale revolt threatening the entire system.

“Between these larger efforts were numerous minor skirmishes, endless plots, individual acts of violence against the master and other forms of resistance,” he said.

Two of those revolts delivered mortal blows to the entire slave industry in the Caribbean.

The first was the Haitian Revolution, a revolt against the three great colonial powers in the Caribbean—Britain, France and Spain.

Territory

It began with a mass slave revolt on the island of Hispaniola in 1791 that quickly took over a vast part of the French territory of St Domingue.

Slaves and free black people formed themselves into an army that forced the French government into abolishing slavery. Later they formed the first free black republic, Haiti.

Along the way they inflicted humiliation on all three colonial powers.

This included one of Britain's greatest military defeats, when 80,000 British soldiers died in a failed attempt to capture St Domingue.

The second big revolt was the great Jamaican rebellion of 1831.

It was organised across nearly 100 plantations by an underground slave leadership.

Beginning as a strike in which plantations were burned, it quickly became an armed rebellion involving some 60,000 slaves across some 750 miles of Jamaica.

This was also put down brutally. But slavery was abolished in British Caribbean colonies two years later.

Historian John Newsinger said it was this great Jamaican revolt that had “finally made it clear that slavery was no longer a viable system of exploitation in the British Caribbean”.

With slavery ended, a series of fresh revolts gradually weakened Britain's grip on the Caribbean altogether.

In 1865 a crowd of mostly black workers marched in the town of Morant Bay behind a red flag and then burned the court.



An engraving showing slaves on a ship (top). The Empire Windrush arriving in Britain (above) and defending the Windrush generation (below)



British colonial rulers put it down with the same force they had used to crush the slave rebellions just decades earlier. Jamaicans finally won their independence in 1962, with resistance led by strikes in the sugar plants and on the docks.

Today Jamaica is still impoverished by the legacy of colonial rule and slavery.

And a system of International Monetary Fund “loans” keeps it indebted. But the history of Jamaica reminds us that, even as people of Caribbean descent are still treated with brutality by the British state, they have always fought back.

It is said she was influenced by self-harm pictures and posts on social media before ending her life, aged 14, in 2017.

Should the internet be policed? And by who?

High profile cases have pushed internet regulation up the political agenda, but **Simon Basketter** says it isn't the answer

POLITICAL consensus is a bad thing. Both the Tories and Labour are now publicly committed to regulating the internet.

The Tories announced they would produce a white paper later this month. It will set out how they intend to deal with tech giants—social media platforms—that do not deal with harmful material in the way they want.

Labour, via deputy leader Tom Watson, said it will bring in an internet regulator.

There will be a period of consultation where many will call for the big platforms to accept the responsibility of being publishers. The big tech firms will admit they could do better and donate large amounts of cash as they try to get the best deal possible for themselves.

Daft as it seems that is why former deputy prime minister Nick Clegg is the spin doctor for Facebook.

The campaign to toughen up on the social giants now has a new face—Molly Russell.

It is said she was influenced by self-harm pictures and posts on social media before ending her life, aged 14, in 2017.

Affected

“I have been deeply moved by the tragic stories that have come to light this past month of Molly Russell and other families affected by suicide and self-harm,” wrote Instagram chief executive Adam Mosseri.

So Instagram plans to introduce “sensitivity screens” to hide some images, which sounds like a euphemism for a blur “layer” the user has to click through to get to provocative content.

But there is more here than a politician or web boss's soundbite. The pressures on young people are immense and real.

There are some anomalies

BACK STORY

Both the Tories and Labour agree that the internet needs more regulation

●The debate is framed in terms of policing firms to protect vulnerable people

●Yet giving the state more powers to observe and control will ultimately be used against us

●And it won't solve the problems that lead to self-harm and suicide

would never be financially stable. When these factors were combined, the trust found that wellbeing and optimism among young people was at a low.

In that context it is not surprising that people find ways for sharing the pain as well as the artificial joy on social media platforms.

Damaging

Perhaps even more damaging than self-harm images are countless apps such as Facelab which—for only £5.99 a month—offer the chance to touch up selfies and reshape bodies to make them insta-worthy.

Big business rakes in profit selling distorted images of ourselves produced by algorithms built on the data they took off us. But the state is not an independent actor—controlling our data.

The internet doesn't cause suicide any more than it causes knife crime, fascism or left wing rebellions.

The censors looking to police the internet are driven by the desire to maintain capitalist norms as much as the tech firms. When Tom Watson promises “immediate steps” to prevent interference in elections, cyber-attacks and disinformation campaigns, we should be wary to say the least.

This doesn't mean siding with the corporations.

But in the long term, attempts to make social media giants responsible for content on their platforms will end up being used primarily against us.

Censors looking to police the internet want to maintain capitalist norms

Court hears Hillsborough crush witness

by SADIE ROBINSON

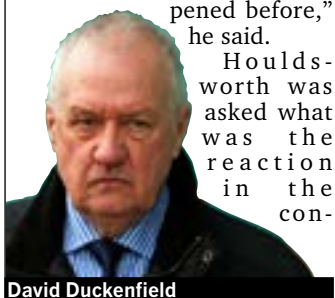
POLICE BLOCKED the tunnel leading to pens 3 and 4 at the Hillsborough football ground at games prior to the 1989 disaster, a court has heard.

Some 96 Liverpool fans died following a crush in the pens in April 1989.

Technical director Roger Houldsworth was in Sheffield Wednesday football club's (SWFC) control room on the day. He said the build-up of fans outside the Leppings Lane turnstiles was "unusual".

Houldsworth said it was a "surprise" when Gate C was opened a second time to relieve the crush. "It's something that never ever happened before," he said.

Houldsworth was asked what was the reaction in the control room.



David Duckenfield

MORE ONLINE

Full coverage of the trials is at socialistworker.co.uk

● Hillsborough police chief said fans 'forced' a gate, court hears
bit.ly/ForcedGate

trol room. "First off was 'Oh my God' and then both PC Guest and myself said this—I hope they blocked off the walkway down to the pens."

He said police or stewards had previously blocked the tunnel.

Houldsworth said he could see that the pens were full as kick-off approached.

A PC in the club control room tried to contact the police control box using his radio and landline but couldn't get through.

The court heard that the police box couldn't access all the club cameras, or the turnstile counts.

Houldsworth agreed that if a problem was spotted in the SWFC control room it would be expected to be passed to the police control box.

He said police radios had



SOME OF the 96 who died as a result of the disaster

"virtually collapsed" on the day of the disaster.

And he accepted that his account might have had details added that he wasn't aware of at the time.

A statement from fan

Andrew Watson was read to the court last week. He attended a match at Hillsborough in January 1989.

Watson said one gate was drawn halfway across the tunnel entrance and a

second gate was half drawn across the other half of the entrance.

He said two police officers outside the mouth of the tunnel indicated that the area was full.

He also attended on the day of the disaster, and said there were no officers at the tunnel.

Fan Gary Gains said he was stopped from going down the central tunnel in 1988 because gates were closed across its entrance.

He also said there was a police officer on either side and a steward.

Terrace

Gains said he was told the pens were full and was directed to the left hand side of the terrace.

Police match commander David Duckenfield faces 95 charges of manslaughter by gross negligence.

He can't be charged over the death of the 96th victim, Tony Bland, as Bland died four years after the disaster.

Graham Mackrell, then SWFC safety officer, faces two charges relating to safety breaches.

Both deny the charges. The trial continues.

What's your story?

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Stansted 15 trial highlights Tory deportations scandal

A group of anti-deportation protesters walked free last week. But the fight for migrants' rights, and against detention, continues, writes **Tomáš Tengely-Evans**

THE STANSTED 15 trial has highlighted the brutality of the racist British immigration system of detention and deportation. And it showed how the government wants to make an example of people who challenge it.

The judge ruled last Wednesday that the Stansted 15 protesters will not be imprisoned for blocking a deportation flight in March 2017.

They were convicted under a piece of terror legislation with a maximum sentence of life imprisonment.

Twelve received community service orders, meaning they'll have to carry out 100 hours of unpaid work. The remaining three defendants received suspended jail sentences.

"We exposed a massive scandal about how the government is deporting people who shouldn't be deported," defendant Melanie Strickland told Socialist Worker at the time of their convictions last December.

Overtake

The Stansted 15 are now fighting to overturn their convictions. "The guilt lies with the government and the Home Office," she said.

"They put people in danger when they throw them into immigration detention centres. They put people in danger at the airports and when they put them onto the deportation flights."

Every year around 30,000 people go through Britain's 12 immigration detention centres, such as the notorious Yarl's Wood in Bedfordshire. Their detention is often a precursor to deportation.

The Migration Observatory's latest figures show in 2017 some 32,551 people were removed from Britain.



RALLYING OUTSIDE Chelmsford Crown Court at the sentencing last week

PICTURE: SOCIALIST WORKER

Of those around 9,670 went through enforced removal where people are often snatched in dawn raids, locked up and then put onto planes.

And an additional 12,049 were locked up in detention centres and "voluntarily returned" to their country of origin.

Anne-Marie from the All African Women's Group (AAWG) asylum seeker support group had been locked up in Yarl's Wood immigration detention centre. "There is no such thing

as 'voluntary return'—deportation is a forceful move" she said. Other removals include people who are forced to leave at the end of their visas.

Britain is the only European Union member state where asylum seekers can be imprisoned indefinitely. As Flora from the AAWG said, "You wouldn't want to be in a detention centre for a day."

"It's different from a prison because you don't know when you will be out."

Labour's shadow home secretary Diane Abbott has pledged to end

indefinite detention and to shut Yarl's Wood and Brook House immigration detention centres.

But that would still leave ten immigration detention centres open, and judges will still have the power to extend detention so migrants could effectively be detained indefinitely.

Anti-racists have been cheered by the decision over the Stansted 15.

It should boost the fight to shut down all detention centres, end all deportations and grant migrants the right to live in, and come to, Britain.

Support for defendants fighting 'hostile environment'

A HUGE cheer erupted as the Stansted 15 walked out of Chelmsford Crown Court in Essex last Wednesday.

Over 300 asylum seekers, anti-racists and anti-fracking campaigners from across Britain rallied in solidarity with the defendants as they faced sentencing.

The Tories are trying to get back on the front foot by ramping up racism. Lewis, a university student said "What's going on is completely wrong—whether that's the Windrush scandal,

the government trying to deport people or trying to jail people for doing the right thing.

Jennie, a Labour Party member, came as part of a coach from Waltham Forest in north east London. "They are building the hostile environment so it seems like a foregone conclusion," she told Socialist Worker.

Jennie pointed out how "some migrants are scared to get medical treatment" because of the Tories' racist ID checks in hospitals. "On occasions



Defendants after their sentencing in Chelmsford last week

like this we need people to protest," she said.

Naima Omar from Stand Up To Racism (SUTR) pointed out how "terror legislation has been imposed by governments to target Muslims".

And she called on people to join the SUTR national demonstrations on 16 March to boost the fight against racism and the far right.

"The Tory government seemed on the back foot over the Windrush scandal, but they are feeling more confident now," she said.

Why we say open up borders

FROM the Windrush scandal, to threats to European Union migrants' rights, the Tories racist assault has caused outrage among growing numbers of people.

But even many radicals, including those who fight against racism, support some immigration controls.

That doesn't make them racist—but the immigration controls always have been.

The first immigration law, the Aliens Act 1905, targeted Jewish refugees fleeing pogroms in Russia.

And after the Second World War laws aimed at stopping Commonwealth immigration in the 1960s singled out black and Asian people.

The Immigration Act 2014 built a "hostile environment" for migrants by obligating landlords and public service workers to carry out immigration checks.

A survey found that 27 percent of landlords were less likely to engage people with "foreign-sounding" names or accents.

Immigration controls are comparatively recent—and capitalist nation states divided by borders are only a few hundred years old.

While bosses want migrant labour, they increasingly rely on nationalist and racist ideas to stoke division and make workers identify with a "national interest".

To stop racist division taking hold, we have to argue that no human is illegal.

IN BRIEF

Ferry workers put bosses in the dock

WORKERS ON the Woolwich Ferry in south east London are to ballot for strikes. They are in dispute over pay, health and safety and staffing.

The 31 Unite union members employed by Briggs Marine Contractors are set to be balloted from 14 February.

They are fighting bosses' refusal to grant a 6 percent pay increase for the year starting January 2019.

Workers are also angry at the imposition of new duties, and a lack of staffing.

Disciplinary victory on Yorkshire buses

TWO UNITE union reps at First Yorkshire buses have been reinstated following a successful appeals procedure and the threat of strikes.

Plans to ballot 3,500 bus drivers for action have now been called off.

Strikes follow two pay rises in 14 years

PRINT WORKERS at CPI William Clowes were set to strike for a fourth time on Wednesday this week.

The Unite union members have been given just two pay rises in the last 14 years, and are threatening more strikes in the future.

Some 75 workers at the workplace in Suffolk are fighting for an improvement to the bosses' "offer" of a two-year pay freeze from April 2018.

Anger in Angus after shift on shifts

AROUND 140 workers at Angus council, east Scotland, could be heading for strikes after bosses attacked their working patterns.

Unite union members in environmental services face an extension of the working day that would mean moving to two shifts.

In a consultative ballot, workers voted by 98 percent to move to a full legal ballot.

Council is sunk by Glasgow pool battle

A COMMUNITY campaign against the closure of a local swimming pool and other leisure services in Dennistoun in the east end of Glasgow has scored a brilliant and quick victory.

The SNP-led council had been considering the closure of Whitehill Pool and Drumchapel Pool.

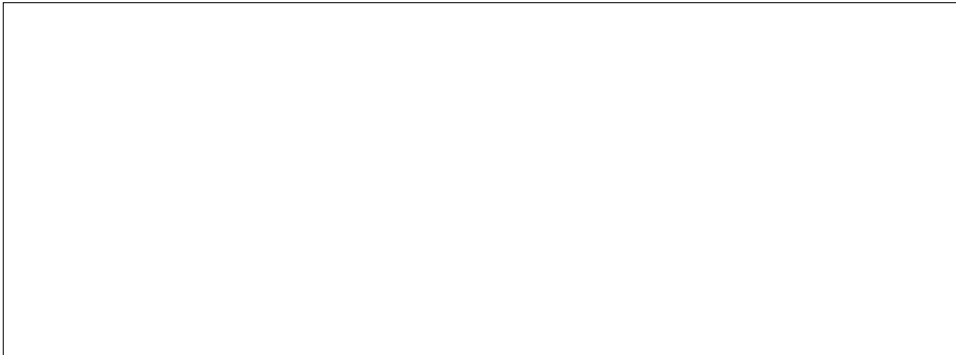
But it was forced into a U-turn following the launch of a campaign after a meeting of over 200 people.

The threat to the Whitehill and Drumchapel pools has been lifted for this year.

Activists have vowed to keep campaigning to demand guarantees of investment for the future.

Mark Brown

ROYAL PALACES



GMB AND PCS union members working for Historic Royal Palaces struck on Wednesday of last week over the closure of their pension scheme. There were demonstrations outside the Tower of London and Hampton Court Palace

RAIL

Determined strikes win gains at Northern rail

by SARAH BATES

STRIKING TRAIN guards were celebrating last week after bosses caved in to their demands about safety.

Workers on the Northern rail franchise had taken 47 days of strikes against plans to axe safety-critical train guard roles from trains.

The RMT union said it had secured a guarantee of a conductor on all trains until the end of the franchise.

The union said the guarantee was "supported by the Department for Transport".

Public

The Tories have been desperate to push through driver-only operation (DOO) trains, despite huge opposition from workers and public.

Mick Cash, RMT general secretary said, "Today's offer of a guarantee of a conductor on all services throughout the duration of the franchise, including the new fleet, is the substantial progress we have been pushing for."

A planned strike for last



Picketing in Carlisle

PICTURE: CRAIG JOHNSTON

Saturday was called off.

David Brown, Northern managing director, said he was looking forward to "talks about what the future role of the conductor looks like".

Maintaining the guards' safety-critical role has to be crucial in negotiations.

Bosses want workers to only be responsible for checking tickets and issuing fines—if there is a member of staff there at all.

But workers with correct safety training and responsibilities keep passengers safe and ensure

travel networks are accessible for everyone.

Deals have now been reached in Scotland, Wales, Merseyrail and East Anglia. Workers on South Western Railway announced a fresh programme of action last week.

Train guards on the network are set to walk out on 22 February and 9 and 16 March.

Bosses caved in because of the power of the strikes. But workers have to fight back against any further attempts now to attack the roles and responsibilities of their jobs.

CIVIL SERVICE

National strike ballot in civil service

CIVIL SERVICE workers are set to begin a national strike ballot next month.

Members of the PCS union are fighting for a 10 percent wage increase to end an attack on pay that has lasted almost a decade.

It means workers at most government departments could all strike this year.

The strike ballot is set to run from Monday 18 March until Monday 29 April. It means union activists have plenty of time to deliver a resounding vote for strikes—but work has to begin now.

The PCS union began its campaign to build up to the ballot with a "betrayed on

pay" campaign this week.

The union is calling on activists to arrange leafleting sessions, campaign events and phone banks.

Candy Udwin from the union's national executive committee spoke to Socialist Worker in a personal capacity.

She said the Tories' Brexit crisis means that civil service workers have "immense leverage". The government will rely on them to do the extra work that comes with leaving the European Union.

But she added, it's important to move now. "Each branch needs to plan what it will be doing

every week between now and the end of the ballot.

"We're going to phone every member in the course of the first week. But having activists in each workplace is what persuades people."

■WORKERS IN the West Midlands who manage people's claims for the Universal Credit (UC) benefit could strike over workload.

Members of the PCS union at UC service centres in Walsall and Wolverhampton say there is understaffing at the centres.

It causes delays which mean misery for claimants and stress for workers.

EDUCATION

Vote Jo McNeill in the UCU

HUNDREDS OF academics from across Britain have signed a statement backing Jo McNeill for vice president of the UCU union.

They include current UCU vice president Nita Sanghera. Jo is part of the UCU Left in the union, which Socialist Worker supports.

The statement says, "We need a union leadership that is up to the task, that won't retreat, waver or wobble."

"That is why we are supporting Jo McNeill."

It says Jo is "the best candidate to forge a fighting union that encourages ordinary rank and file members to organise and lead".

Jo is standing so that the

voices of union members "are not just heard but are listened to". She said she will focus on fighting education funding cuts if elected.

Jo has spoken at several hustings as part of her campaign.

Union branches that haven't already held meetings, should organise them and invite Jo to speak.

UCU Left is also backing Paul Anderson for honorary treasurer and a number of candidates for the union's national executive committee.

Voting ends on 1 March.

●For more details and campaigning materials go to uculeft.org/2019/01/ucu-elections-2019/

HIGHER EDUCATION

Every vote counts in HE

UCU UNION members in higher education are balloting for strikes over pay and conditions. The ballot involves around 70,000 workers across 143 universities.

Workers want more than a below-inflation 2 percent pay offer. And they want universities to take action on the gender pay gap, insecure contracts and workloads.

The UCU said over 80 percent of members have reported rises in their workloads over the last two years.

And the gender pay gap is stuck at over 10 percent.

Activists need to push to get the vote out in order to beat the Tories' 50 percent turnout threshold.

The ballot ends on Friday of next week.

SCHOOLS ROUND-UP

Scots fight for better pay

SCHOOL TEACHERS in the EIS union in Scotland are voting on whether to accept the latest offer over pay.

The three-year deal works out at only around 3 percent a year and the union is recommending rejection. The ballot closes on Thursday of next week.

■NEU UNION members at Valentine Primary School in Southampton are balloting for strikes to save jobs.

The union said Southampton city council threatens to cut nearly £1 million from its staffing budget.

■WORKERS AT Peacehaven Heights and Telscombe Cliffs schools in East Sussex could strike over plans to turn their schools into academies. East Sussex County

QUEEN MARGARET

Pause to talk about jobs

THE UCU union suspended two days of planned strikes at Edinburgh's Queen Margaret University last week for talks.

The move followed a one-day strike on Thursday of last week.

Workers are in dispute over threatened compulsory redundancies. They had planned to strike on Monday and Wednesday of this week.

The Unison union also suspended planned strikes after bosses said they would make savings without compulsory redundancies.

The union said the redundancies had threatened around 35 jobs, or 7 percent of the university's total workforce.

Some 64 percent of UCU members who voted backed strikes on a turnout of 72 percent.

Council has proposed turning the schools into a Multi-Academy Trust.

GMB and NEU union members at the schools are opposed to the plan and could ballot for strikes.

■NEU UNION members at Wyggeston & Queen Elizabeth 1 College in Leicester were set to strike on Wednesday and Thursday of this week.

Workers are in dispute over a restructure. They also struck last Wednesday.

●Send messages of support to toni.bennett@neu.org.uk

■NEU and NASUWT union members at Light Hall School in Solihull struck over performance management on Tuesday.

●Send messages of support to simon.bennett@neu.org.uk

ROYAL MAIL

Glasgow delivers an unofficial walkout

by NICK CLARK

POSTAL WORKERS at a Royal Mail delivery office in Glasgow struck unofficially from last Friday until Monday morning this week.

The CWU union members walked out without a ballot on Friday. The CWU's Glasgow and District Amal branch said the strike was over bullying and harassment.

Strikers voted last Sunday to return to work on Monday morning after CWU officials reached an agreement with management.

They received messages of support from other CWU branches.

Their strike was the latest in a string of walkouts over bullying and harassment at Royal Mail workplaces across Britain.



MASS SUPPORT for the postal workers' unofficial action in Glasgow

PICTURE: CWU UNION

Workloads

Many workers complain of pressure from managers to take on extra workloads.

The walkout came as workers at a Royal Mail delivery office in Bangor, Northern Ireland, voted to strike. They are fighting over disciplinary action against two colleagues.

Bosses accused Craig Stewart and Jim Magowan of "non-completion of a duty".

But their workmates and CWU branch insist that the pair followed correct procedures.

The workers are set to strike on Saturday of next week and on Monday 25 February.

POSTAL WORKERS in Leeds have won a campaign to stop the closure of a Royal Mail delivery office. Bosses had planned to close the Holbeck delivery office and merge it with the Leeds City office.

But workers opposed the move and launched a campaign involving protests

that forced managers to back down. CWU union rep Chris Allen said, "There are national agreements on closures and mergers of delivery offices and we felt that Royal Mail weren't adhering to them."

"They knew we aren't going to budge on what has been agreed nationally."

KAREN REISSMANN

Karen Reissmann is back

HEALTH WORKER Karen Reissmann was pleased to attend the Unison union's north west regional council meeting on Saturday of last week after a six-month break.

Karen was suspended from her democratically-elected positions on Unison's national executive and health service group executive committees.

She had been a leading critic of the NHS pay deal that was misold to members by the leaderships of 13 health unions.

Hundreds of Unison branch officers and members signed a petition



Karen Reissmann

against her suspension.

Trade unionists also took photographs with signs demanding her reinstatement, and passed motions in branches.

FIGHTING THE CUTS

1,000 people rally against library cuts in Chelmsford

by JANET SZPAKOWSKI

AROUND 1,000 people joined a protest against library service cuts in Chelmsford, Essex, last Saturday.

The Tory-run council plans to axe 25 out of 74 libraries—a third of libraries in Essex.

And it wants a further 19 libraries run by "the community"—by volunteers who have the time and money to run the service and pay rent for the library.

The Unison union, which represents the library workers, supported the demonstration.

Andrew Coburn from Unison said, "A library without a librarian is just a room."

"A library is a crucial statutory service that fosters literacy, community,

empowerment and democratic involvement". The rally heard speeches from education workers and students.

Labour councillors from Essex and local author Francis Wheen also backed the rally.

Shoppers waved in support as the march went through the town.

Since council bosses announced the plan last November, people have been holding meetings in towns and villages across Essex.

They have staged their own local protests outside libraries that are under threat.

Protests have included "book raids"—where people collectively take out as many books as possible during a particular day.

These campaigns were brought together last Saturday.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Celebrate equal pay moves

UNISON AND GMB union members in Glasgow were celebrating last Thursday as the city's council signed off on an equal pay deal brokered with trade unions.

The £550 million deal is a major breakthrough in a dispute that's raged for 12 years as women workers have fought against an unequal pay structure.

It follows a 48-hour strike by 8,000 workers in care, cleaning, education and

catering workers. Workers are set to receive a letter in May with an amount they will receive under the deal.

But so far strikers have been offered very little opportunity by their unions to discuss the terms of the deal collectively.

It was solid strikes that brought the council back to the negotiating table.

Workers need to be ready to fight together for more if their settlements are not good enough.

SOCIAL CARE

Home care workers keep up struggle in Birmingham

HOME CARERS in Birmingham leafleted the ward of Labour council leader Ian Ward during their strike last Saturday.

The council is trying to impose cuts up to £4,100 a year on an already low-paid workforce. The Unison union

members have struck for over 60 days against council plans to force them onto part time hours. The decision has been referred to the council's scrutiny committee which are set to review it.

Workers plan more strikes on Sunday and 23 February.

BIN WORKERS

Bin workers set to strike

BIN WORKERS in Birmingham are set to return to the picket lines next Tuesday over blacklisting by council bosses.

The Unite union members plan to strike for two days every week for the next five weeks.

The union said they are fighting "secret payments" made by council bosses to

GMB union members who didn't take part in strikes in 2017.

The 300 workers have been operating a work to rule since 29 December.

Unite is seeking an injunction to stop council bosses running bin wagons that are short staffed and without safety critical workers on them.

TOWER HAMLETS

To strike or not to strike is question in Tower Hamlets

COUNCIL workers in Tower Hamlets, east London, are preparing to fight a raft of attacks on their working conditions.

The Labour-run council wants to impose new contracts that would see a longer working week for less pay.

It claims the "Tower Rewards" proposals are a "new approach to pay and reward".

The plans would see a one hour increase to the working week and an end to automatic incremental progression through pay scales.

It comes alongside drastic cuts to severance pay and travel allowances and restrictions on flexible working.

Overtime rates are also set to be slashed, and unsociable hours rates to be reduced.

Tom, an education worker in Tower Hamlets, described

the plans as a "massive attack on terms and conditions."

He said, "People work unofficial overtime anyway and are really angry about that. The introduction of performance related pay will put a lot of pressure on people."

"We don't feel we do jobs that are neatly measurable, we support students with complex needs, and that's not just something that can be put in a box."

Workers are planning mass meetings. They should be prepared to strike.

COUNCIL WORKERS in Lambeth, south London, are declaring victory after the threat of a 24-hour strike forced bosses to cave in.

Unison union members in the civic centre were fighting for proper implementation of the council's flexible working agreements.

ISS

HOSPITAL WORKERS from Kingston in south west London plan to protest outside the ISS multinational corporation's headquarters on Tuesday of next week.

The GMB union members, who are outsourced to ISS, are demanding the right to sick pay.

They have already held three lunchtime protests.

STOP ROBINSON ON 23 FEBRUARY

Nazi Tommy Robinson plans to rally his far right supporters in Greater Manchester on 23 February—but anti-fascists will be mobilising against him, writes Tomáš Tengely-Evans

NAZI TOMMY Robinson plans to rally the forces of the British far right in Greater Manchester on Saturday 23 February.

Stand Up To Racism (SUTR) and Unite Against Fascism (UAF) have called a counter-mobilisation.

Robinson announced in a video to supporters on Friday night that the far right rally will take place outside the BBC Media City in Salford.

He raved that a BBC Panorama programme due to air later this month was “one final attempt by the establishment to destroy me in the nation’s eyes”.

His rally is designed to protest at the programme.

The announcement comes on the back of far right fake “Yellow Vest” protests in the city since the beginning of the year.

Supporters of SUTR joined a counter-mobilisation against a “Yellow Vest” protest on Saturday.

Martin, a Socialist Worker supporter and Manchester SUTR activist, told Socialist Worker, “We had over 100 people across the day with a good mix of Labour Party members, trade unionists and campaigners.”

“They had around 20 on their protest, we surrounded



Tommy Robinson

them and chanted at them until they left with their tails between their legs.”

The “Yellow Vests” harassed an RMT rail workers’ union picket last month. And they have tried to disrupt and intimidate SUTR and Socialist Worker campaigning stalls in



Anti-fascists must take to the streets to oppose Robinson

the city centre over recent weekends. The protests have been organised by James Goddard in London, Manchester and other towns across Britain.

He is famous for attacking Remain-supporting Tory MP Anna Soubry and Labour-supporting columnist Owen Jones outside parliament.

The British far right were on an upward trajectory last year.

A series of big rallies on Whitehall brought together forces from open Nazis and the alt right to Ukip.

But recently Robinson’s plans to tour the US and Australia fell apart after he was denied entry into the countries.

And a 10,000-strong anti-racist demonstration outnumbered a march called by Robinson and Ukip in London last December.

Robinson has remained quiet since then.

He sees the Manchester rally as an opportunity to get back on to the front foot.

Anti-fascists must take to the streets to oppose Robinson and his far right thugs.

Join the SUTR and UAF counter-mobilisation—go to Facebook event **No to fascist Tommy Robinson in Salford**



A RIGHT wing ‘Yellow Vest’ protest in London last Saturday

PICTURES: GUY SMALLMAN

Activists show solidarity with refugees in Calais

DELEGATIONS of anti-racists from Britain went to the aid of refugees trapped at Britain’s border in northern France.

Around 1,500 refugees are braving harsh weather conditions and police harassment in make-shift camps scattered across Brussels, Calais, Caen and Dunkirk.

They have fled war, poverty and dictatorship in Afghanistan, Iraq, Iran and Eritrea.

Dozens of trade unionists and students joined a Stand Up To Racism (SUTR) and Care4Calais solidarity convoy to Calais last weekend.

They delivered much-needed supplies to the refugees. But their mission was primarily to share political solidarity with the refugees, not just charity.

The only real solution to the crisis is to open



One of many child refugees in northern France

the borders and let the refugees into Britain. That requires a mass movement against racism that can force the government’s hand.

SUTR and Care4Calais have organised a “Refugees Welcome” bloc on the SUTR national demonstrations on 16 March.

The protests in London, Glasgow and Cardiff are a key opportunity to build a bigger movement against racism.

STAND UP TO RACISM DIARY

- **Student conference**
Sat 16 Feb
Decolonising education—confronting racism on campus
- **Trade union conference**
Sat 23 Feb
Stopping the far right, challenging institutional racism

Both events at NEU, Hamilton House, Mabledon Place, London WC1H 9BD

